

Remarks

Claims 1, 5, 12, 13, 15, and 16 have been amended; claims 2 and 14 have been canceled; and claims 19-22 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-13, and 15-22 are currently pending. Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application.

Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been canceled, and new claims 19-22 have been added that include the general formulas for ethylenes, acetylenes, and cyclics as suggested by the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's comment that the expressions "derivatives of maleic anhydride" and "derivatives of benzoquinone" render claim 3 indefinite. The term "derivative" is well known in the art as meaning a compound obtained from another compound by a chemical process. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the expression "derivatives of maleic anhydride" refers to compounds formed by subjecting maleic anhydride to known chemical processes. A person of ordinary skill in the art would also understand that the expression "derivatives of benzoquinone" refers to compounds formed by subjecting benzoquinone to known chemical processes. Applicants therefore submit that these expressions particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention.

The Office Action fails to provide any reasons for the Section 112 rejection of claim 1 and claims 4-18. In view of the foregoing, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-18 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,300,126 to Brown et al. (hereinafter “Brown”). In response to the obviousness rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that Brown does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to the currently pending claims.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (MPEP 2142). Claim 1 in its amended form provides a process for purifying a monoolefin stream in which one or more conjugated olefins present in the monoolefin stream are converted to a Diels-Alder adduct, followed by removing the Diels-Alder adduct from the monoolefin stream, thereby purifying the monoolefin stream. Brown does not teach or suggest purifying a monoolefin stream by the two-step process of conversion of one or more conjugated olefins to a Diels-Alder adduct followed by the removal of the Diels-Alder adduct. In contrast, Brown discloses converting conjugated dienes (which deactivate acidic catalysts) in an olefinic hydrocarbon feedstream to a Diels-Alder adduct (which do not deactivate acidic catalysts). See Brown, abstract. Brown neither teaches nor suggests removing a Diels-Alder adduct from a monoolefin stream. In contrast, Brown discloses that the olefinic hydrocarbon feedstream containing the adduct is subjected to catalytic conversion. See Brown, column 3, lines 18-22. Given that the resulting adduct does not deactivate the catalyst, Brown does not provide any motivation for removing the adduct from the feedstream. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of the prior art. Likewise, claims 3-13 and 15-22, which depend from claim 1, are not obvious in view of the prior art. In view of the

foregoing, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), second paragraph, rejection of claims 1-18 be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 50-1515 , Conley Rose, P.C.

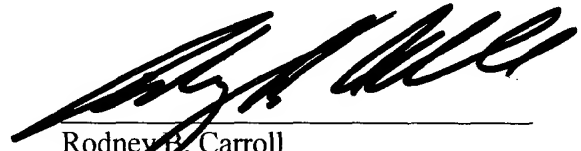
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

Respectfully submitted,

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